

# Create a selfie for your ceiling

Get inspired by the Stirling Heads and create your own!

## What were the original Stirling Heads like?

In the 1500s James V organised for the ceiling of the Palace at Stirling Castle to be decorated with lots of huge carved wooden portraits – at least 45 of them, all about a metre in diameter. The circular shape and style was popular at the time and originally inspired by Roman coins and medals.

The portraits were of kings, queens, nobles, Roman emperors and characters from the Bible and Classical mythology. They would have been a very impressive sight to visitors!



## Where are they now?

The original carvings were taken down in 1777 after part of the ceiling collapsed, and over the years they lost their paintwork and some went missing or were destroyed. The 34 remaining Stirling Heads are now displayed in special cases on the top floor of the palace as they are very precious.

## How did the new Stirling Heads get made?

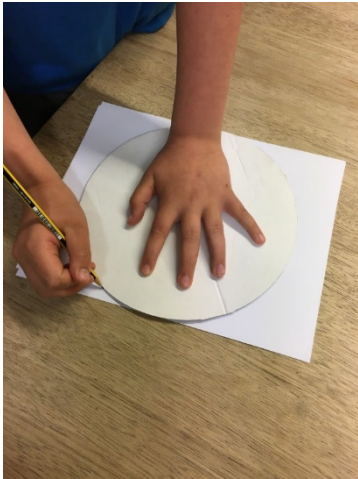
When Palace was redecorated to look like it would have done in the 1500s, a new set of 37 Stirling Heads was carved and painted for the ceiling of the King's Inner Hall.



The people creating the new versions wanted to paint them in the kinds of colours used in the 1500s, and a lot of detective work took place to find clues from tiny traces of paint found on the original Stirling Heads.

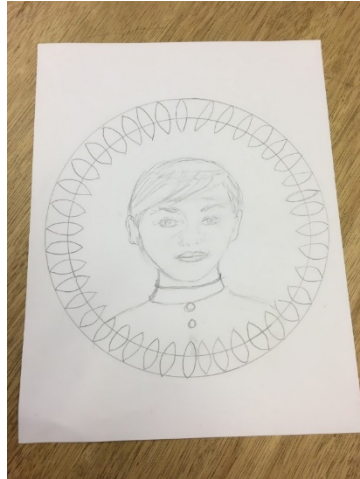


# Create your own Stirling Head



## Step 1

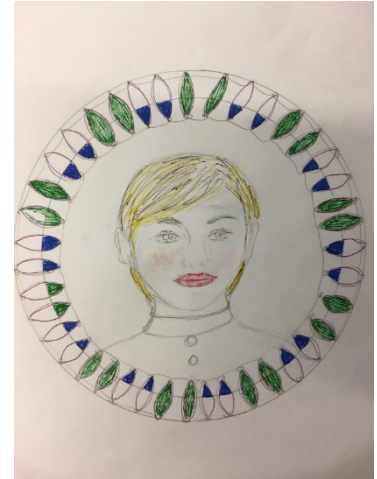
**Draw round a circular template** – depending on the size of your paper you might like to use a paper plate or the cardboard base from pizza packaging.



## Step 2

**Draw a face.**

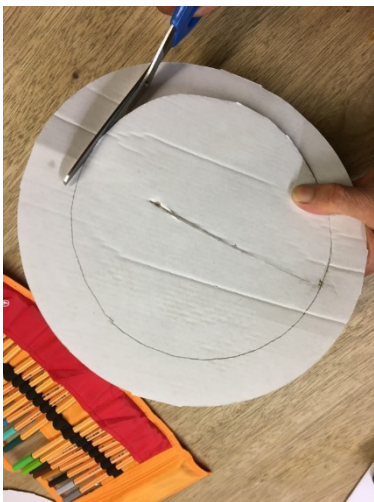
Use a mirror to draw yourself, draw your family (even your pet) or make up a face. If you like you can create a patterned border around it.



## Step 3

**Colour in your face.**

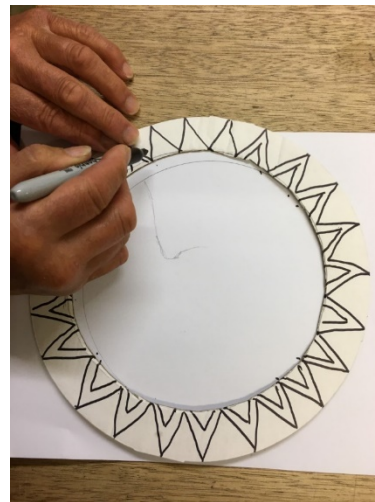
You might want to do this with pencils or pen, or really go to town with coloured paper, glitter and sequins!



## Step 4

**Create a frame** from a larger piece of paper/card, a pizza base or a paper plate.

Use a smaller circular template to draw the inner circle of the frame and then cut out the middle.



## Step 5

**Decorate your frame.**

Remember your face will be displayed on the ceiling so make sure the frame is eye catching so people look up!



## Step 6

**Stick the frame to your self-portrait and display it** somewhere everyone will see it. You could even make a set like the Stirling Heads!